



House of Representatives

File No. 879

General Assembly

January Session, 2009

(Reprint of File No. 156)

House Bill No. 5674
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedules "A" and "B"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 1, 2009

AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2009*) Any person, firm or
2 corporation who offers goods or services to the public at retail and
3 who offers a discount to senior citizens shall disclose the qualifying
4 age and the percentage or dollar amount of such discount on a
5 conspicuously placed sign located at the point of display, the cash
6 register or the store entrance. The Commissioner of Consumer
7 Protection may assess a civil penalty in the amount of fifty dollars
8 against any person, firm or corporation that violates the provisions of
9 this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

| | | |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------|
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2009</i> | New section |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------|

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 10 \$ | FY 11 \$ |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Consumer Protection, Dept. | GF - Revenue Gain | Potential | Potential |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a potential revenue gain due to potential violations of the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (CUTPA). The Department of Consumer Protection currently handles complaints concerning senior citizen discount programs and it is not anticipated that this bill will substantially increase such complaints.

House "A" (LCO 5811) is technical and has no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5674 (as amended by House "A" and "B")******AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires an individual, firm, or corporation that sells goods and services to the public to disclose eligibility requirements for any senior citizen discounts offered by conspicuously placing a sign at the point of display, cash register, or store entrance stating the qualifying age and discount percentage or dollar amount.

The consumer protection commissioner may assess a \$50 civil penalty against any person, firm, or corporation violating these provisions.

*House Amendment "A" (1) includes the dollar amount of the discount and (2) makes a technical change.

*House Amendment "B" replaces the provision making a violation an unfair or deceptive trade practice with the civil penalty.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2009

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Aging

Joint Favorable Change of Reference
Yea 11 Nay 0 (03/05/2009)

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/10/2009)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 42 Nay 0 (04/14/2009)